Management for Information Technology Industry in India' in 2004 for wide circulation to electronics industry.

(3) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has condcuted a study on the assessment of electrical and electronic waste generation and have also undertaken the task on preparation of a 'Guidelines Document for Environmnetally Sound Recycling of E-Waste' for the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees of the Union Territories as well as the industries.

(4) Measures have also been initiated to create awareness among the electronic industry for the adoption on cleaner production technologies and minimization hazardous waste generation.

Protection of crops from fungal disease

†*170. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that coming out from Africa a type of fungus harming the wheat crop has reached Yemen crossing the Red Sea and it may reach India in the coming three-four years;

(b) if so, what measures Government are taking to protect the wheat crop from this fungus; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The African race of stem rust fungus of wheat is not reported in India. Government is aware that a new race of stem rust of wheat (Ug 99) with likely adverse effect on wheat crop has been traced in Kenya and Yemen. The opinion of the experts of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), Mexico is that the effect, speed and the route of the movement of the fungus is unpredictable in near future. Therefore, it is only an apprehension that the fungus may reach India is the coming three or four years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) A vigil is kept on the movement of this race by Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal, through International collaboration. CIMMYT, Mexico is also providing regular information on the movement of this race. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, in collaboration with CIMMYT, Mexico has tested the Indian wheat cultivars in Africa, against the new pathotype (Ug 99) of the said disease. A number of wheat entries have been identified possessing resistance against the new race of the stem rust fungus. This source of resistance will be useful for developing resistant wheat varieties which will prevent incidence of the new race of African fungus.

There is a well established Plant Quarantine regulatory system in the country under the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914, under which, necessary steps are taken to prevent the introduction and spread of exotic pests and disease that are destructive to crops by regulating/restricting the import of plant materials and plant products. There are well defined regulations under Plant Quarantine Order, 2003, for the import of any plant material or plant product, either for propagation or consumption purposes. Post entry quarantine inspection is also undertaken to ensure that the imported plant material is free from any pests and disease. The plant quarantine regulations are implemented in the country through 39 Plant Quarantine Stations spread over sea ports, airports and land custom stations. Further, a regular surveillance for pest and disease emergence in the country, is also conducted to take emergency measures, wherever required, through Central Integrated Pest Management Centres, Indian Council of a Agricultural Research and State Agricultural Departments.

(c) Question does not arise.

Construction of new Rail Lines

*171. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total mileage of new railway lines constructed during the last three years;

(b) whether his avowed objective to give stiff and healthy competition to the transportation of goods by road through trucks, trailers, etc. is being adequately fulfilled, through innovative schemes and construction of new lines; and